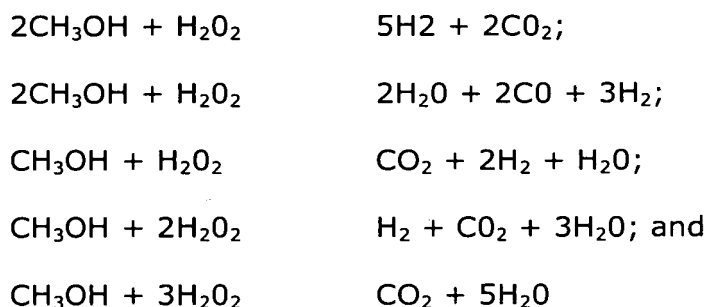


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A process for initiating a reaction between methanol and a peroxide to produce a gas, which comprises contacting methanol and peroxide in the liquid phase and at a pressure equal to, below or above atmospheric pressure in the presence of a catalyst comprising at least one group 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11 transition metal.
2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the peroxide is hydrogen peroxide or an organic peroxide.
3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 2, wherein the peroxide is hydrogen peroxide and the hydrogen peroxide is in the form of an aqueous solution, an alcohol solution or urea pellets comprising at least 6 vol% hydrogen peroxide.
4. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the reaction between methanol and peroxide produces at least one of hydrogen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane and oxygen.
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the methanol and peroxide are present in a molar ratio of 2.5:1 to 1:3.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 5, wherein the peroxide is hydrogen peroxide and the methanol and hydrogen peroxide are present in a molar ratio of about 1:1.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the claims 2 to 6~~ claim 6, wherein the reaction comprises at least one of:



8. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the metal is selected from one or more of nickel, cobalt, copper, silver, iridium, gold, palladium, ruthenium, rhodium and platinum.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the metal is in metallic form.

10. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst contains one or more catalyst promoters.

11. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the initiation is carried out without heating the reactants.
12. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the initiation is carried out at a temperature of less than 80° C.
13. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the claims~~ claim 1, wherein the initiation is carried out at a temperature of less than 30° C.
14. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 13, wherein the initiation is carried out at about room temperature.
15. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, which further comprises reforming an organic feed to produce a product stream comprising carbon dioxide, hydrogen and optionally carbon monoxide.
16. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the organic feed is selected from an alcohol and a hydrocarbon.
17. (Currently Amended) A process as claimed in claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein any carbon monoxide produced in the reforming step is converted into carbon dioxide by contacting the product stream with a water gas shift catalyst in the presence of water.

18. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding claims claim 1,~~ which is carried out in a fuel cell, to power a rocket or to inflate an air bag, to pressurize mechanical equipment or for the quick start up of catalytic exhausted gas converter or NO_x purifier.

19. (Original) An apparatus for carrying out a reforming reaction, said apparatus comprising storage means containing methanol and peroxide, a housing containing a catalyst comprising at least one group 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11 transition metal, and means for introducing the methanol and the peroxide into the housing.

20. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the housing additionally contains a water gas shift catalyst located downstream of the catalyst comprising at least one group 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11 transition metal.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 ~~or 20,~~ which comprises a fuel cell downstream of the housing and means for transferring any hydrogen produced in the housing to the fuel cell.